Comune di Ravenna

la capitale del mare 2026

Istituzione Biblioteca Classense

in collaborazione con

RAVENNA TOURISM
Italian Beauty Experience

The upper rooms of the Classense Library

After the reopening to the public of the Aula Magna, built under the direction of Abbot Pietro Canneti (1659–1730) and a jewel of Ravenna's cultural heritage, the Biblioteca Classense is also opening its Upper Rooms. Thanks to the interventions funded by the PNRR – National Recovery and Resilience Plan, these spaces have finally become accessible to visitors with mobility difficulties, allowing them to enjoy the beauty of the ancient Camaldolese library.

The first Upper Rooms were designed between 1764 and 1779 as a raised continuation, extending in a perspective sequence from the Aula Magna. Architect Camillo Morigia (1744–1795) designed the first three rooms: the Rooms of Sciences and Arts, which house Morigia's own bequest, and the Room of the Holy Fathers. The Room of Sciences, in particular, is richly decorated with carved wooden shelving, stuccoes and portraits of distinguished Camaldolese figures, as well as a remarkable ceiling painting by Mariano Rossi (1731–1807), Fame calling Virtue to the Temple of Glory.

A further eight rooms, built during the monastery's final phase of expansion (1782–1797), now house book collections acquired during the nineteenth century following the suppression of religious orders, as well as the important bequest of Corrado Ricci (1858–1934), art historian, archaeologist and Director General of Antiquities and Fine Arts. The final room, known as the "Dante Room", was set up in 1908 and decorated by the painter Enrico Piazza (1864–1945). It houses the valuable collection of books devoted to Dante, acquired by the Municipality of Ravenna in 1905 from the publisher and bibliophile Leo Samuel Olschki (1861–1940).

Beside: View of Teodorico Foschini's model of Dante's Tomb (1868) and the Upper Rooms

Fotografie di Mariasole Lega, Biblioteca Classense